# CONSTABULARY (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 22 February 1864;—*for*,

COPIES "of INSTRUCTIONS to the IRISH CONSTABULARY, in force in "January 1858, with regard to the PROTECTION during the Night of LIFE "and PROPERTY in Towns where no Local Police exist:"

"And, of any INSTRUCTIONS on the same subject issued between that date and January 1864."

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1. THE Instructions originally issued to the Constabulary stationed in Cities and Towns, are comprised in the First Edition of the Constabulary Code, promulgated in 1837.

2. Further Instructions were issued from time to time by Circular General Orders.

3. And, finally, all the Instructions above referred to, with some slight additions, were embodied in the Revised Edition of the Code, which bears date 1st May 1860.

Copies of these Instructions, at the several stages above indicated, are subjoined.

Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle,
2 March 1864.

H. J. BROWNRIGG.
Inspector General of Constabulary.

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— 1. —

COPIES of INSTRUCTIONS issued to the Constabulary stationed in Cities and Towns, in the First Edition of the Code, promulgated on 1st October 1837.

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COUNTIES of Cities and Counties of Towns are to be considered as districts, and their sub-divisions are to be denominated walks.

The* Sub Inspectors, in whose jurisdiction counties of cities or counties of towns placed under the Constabulary Act are situate, are to make a proper division thereof into walks, according to the necessities, local circumstances, and strength of the force raised for, and allowed to, such counties of cities or counties of towns respectively; and the† Chief Constables placed in charge thereof, and the head or other constables put in charge of walks therein, are to be governed in the execution of their several duties by the instructions herein contained for the guidance of† chief constables, head constables, or other constables in charge of districts and sub-districts in counties at large, as far as such instructions are applicable to the execution of police duties in counties of cities and counties of towns.

Where cities or towns are so divided, each head or other constable shall be held responsible for the state of the walk intrusted to his care; but he is also to give his assistance, when necessary or required, in executing the duties of the other walks in such cities or towns, and is to act in all cases of breach of the peace, or other infraction of the law within his view, without reference to the walk

* Now styled County Inspectors.

† Now designated Sub-Inspectors.



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walk in which any such offence may occur, in such manner as the case may require.

Head or other constables appointed to cities or towns are not to go beyond the boundaries of their jurisdiction, except on duty, without permission from their officer; and he is not to allow any head or other constable to sleep out of the city or town for which appointed, without having first obtained leave of absence for him in the manner prescribed by these regulations.

All members of the force in counties of cities or counties of towns, must be on the alert by day and night for the prevention of crime, and the detection of offenders, and are, by every means in their power, to be aiding and assisting to the local authorities in the maintenance of peace and good order; they are not to suffer disorderly persons to remain in the lanes, streets, or passages, nor are they to allow any public nuisance to be committed therein, without reporting it to the proper authorities.

The officers in charge are to establish a vigilant system of nightly patrol, of which, and of the execution of all other duties, a proper account must be kept and rendered, in the manner herein directed for the keeping police diaries.

A light must be constantly kept during the night in the guard-room of each walk, and the strength of the guard is to be regulated by the Sub-Inspector, according to the necessities of such walk, and the number of men allocated thereto.

If a knowledge of the individual character of the inhabitants of a rural district is necessary to the constitution of an efficient police, it is doubly essential in cities and towns, from the greater degree of vice that exists in them, and from the adroitness with which delinquents endeavour to evade discovery or detection; and, therefore, it becomes a most important duty of the police quartered in towns to make themselves well acquainted with the persons and haunts of all suspicious characters therein, in order to their being able to bring them forward without delay, in the event of their being charged with the commission of any crime or misdemeanor, or, by close observation of their movements, deter them from committing depredations or other offences against person or property.

A portion of the force stationed in all towns, ports, or other places, should, when not otherwise engaged on duty, be always in attendance at the despatch and arrival of all vessels, boats, coaches and other public vehicles with passengers, with a view not only to observe the persons departing or arriving by them, but to render such persons any assistance or protection which they may require, and which the police can consistently afford to them.

All members of the force in cities, towns, or elsewhere, are to turn out on any alarm by fire, and are to render all and every aid in their power which the circumstances of the case may demand.

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—2.—

COPIES of CIRCULAR ORDERS issued from time to time, bearing particularly upon Constabulary stationed in Towns.

Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle,
31 May 1839.

AT each seaport an active, intelligent, and discreet policeman is to be selected by the Sub-Inspector, whose peculiar duty will be to notice the arrival and departure of all passengers, especially those of a suspicious appearance, by all vessels (emigrant ships in particular) taking their departure from or arriving at the port.

The individual appointed to perform this duty is to consider it as one of paramount importance, and in the execution of it he must act with great discretion and circumspection; he should make himself well acquainted with the descriptions of all persons advertised in the "Hue and Cry," or described in any proclamation, placard, or return, which may be furnished in compliance with the regulations, and when actually engaged in this duty he is permitted to wear plain clothes.

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Constabulary Office, Duhlin Castle,
18 August 1847.

THE subjoined extracts from the 10th & 11th Victoria, chap. 84, sec. 3 & 4, are reprinted for the information and guidance of the force:—

."And he it enacted, that every person wandering ahroad and begging, or placing himself in any puhlic place, street, highway, court, or passage to beg or gather alms, or causing, or procuring, or encouraging any child or children so to do, and every person who, having heen resident in any union in Ireland shall go from such union to some other union, or from one electoral or relief district to auother electoral or relief district in Ireland, for the purpose of ohtaining relief in such last-mentioned union or district, shall, on conviction thereof hefore any Justice of the Peace, if such Justice shall think fit, be committed to the common gaol or house of correction, there to he kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding one calendar month.

"And be it enacted, that it shall he lawful for any person whatsoever to apprehend any person whom he shall find offending against this Act, and to take and convey such offender as soon as may be reasonahly practicable before any Justice of the Peace, to he dealt with as is hereinbefore provided, or to deliver him to any constable or other peace officer of the county or place wherein he shall have heen apprehended, to be so taken and conveyed as aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of every constahle or peace officer to take into his custody every such offender so delivered to him, and to take and convey such offender before a Justice of the Peace as soon as may be reasonably practicable, to be dealt with as is directed hy this Act."

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Constabulary Office, Duhlin Castle,
4 June 1851.

NUMEROUS complaints having heen received of the annoyance and inconvenience sustained hy passengers in public conveyances from the importunity of mendicants and others at the usual halting-places, and it appearing that, in many instances, the practices complained of are carried on with little or no interference on the part of the police, who appear to be under the erroneous impression that it is not their duty to take any steps in such cases, the men of the force are to be reminded of Code 319, Sec. 3 of Circular, 26th June 1839; the 14th Sec. of Circular, 1st November 1844; and of Sec. 3 of Circular, 14th August 1847: and are to be called upon to use active exertions in the suppression of vagrancy, and to carry out the provisions of 10 & 11 Vic. cap. 84.

It is to be understood, however, that the foregoing order does not enjoin the attendance of the men at railway termini.

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Constabulary Office, Duhlin Castle,
23 July 1856.

*Suppression of Vagrancy.*

ALTHOUGH it is satisfactory to ohserve that a marked decrease of mendicancy has taken place since the date of the last Circular upon the suhject (4th June 1851), there is reason to believe that the police are not even yet uniformly on the alert with a view to the eradication of the evil referred to. A copy of the Circular above quoted is therefore to be again furnished to each station, and the police further enjoined to use their hest exertions, not only at the halting places of public conveyanoes, hut elsewhere, in the enforcement of the provisions of tbe Vagrant Act.

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Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle,
7 August 1851.

*Over-loading of Stage Carriages with Passengers and Luggage.*

COMPLAINTS having reached me that the offences ahove described are, in certain localities, of frequent occurrence, the police in attendance taking no steps either to prevent the offence or punish the offender, it is necessary to call



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the attention of the force generally to the 25th Section of the 13 & 14 Vict., cap. 102, (a copy of which is in every harrack,) and to enjoin upon the men very strongly the duty of using their best efforts to carry out the provisions of the Section referred to.

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— 3 —

COPIES of INSTRUCTIONS issued to the Constabulary stationed in Towns, as they stand in the Revised Edition of the Code, bearing date 1st May 1860.

*Counties of Cities or Towns.*—The County Inspectors in whose jurisdiction counties of cities and counties of towns placed under the Constabulary Acts are situated, are to make a proper division of them into walks, and to distribute the police therein, according to local circumstances; and the Sub-Inspectors in towns, as well as the head or other constables in charge of walks, are to be governed in the execution of their several duties by the instructions issued for the guidance of such officers in charge of districts and sub-districts in counties at large, as far as such instructions are applicable to towns.

With a view to discipline, the Suh-Inspector in command of any party stationed in a county of a city, or county of a town (not being the county head quarters), will have the same power of punishing minor defaulters which is exercised by the Couuty Inspector, and he is to send periodically to the County Inspector, for his information and approval, returns of such defaulters, with their offences and the punishments awarded.

Where cities or towns are divided into walks, each head or other constable shall be held responsible for the state of the walk entrusted to his care; but he is also to give his assistance, when necessary or required, in executing the duties of the other walks in such cities or towns, and is to act in all cases of breach of the peace, or other infraction of the law within his view, without reference to the walk in which any such offence may occur, in such manner as the case may require.

Head or other constables appointed to cities or towns, are not to go beyond the boundaries of their jurisdiction, except on duty, without permission from their officer; and the officer is not to allow any head or other constable to sleep out of the city or town for which he is appointed, without his first having obtained leave of absence in the manner prescribed by these regulations.

*Light.*—A light must be constantly kept during the night in the guard-room of each walk, and the strength of the guard is to he regulated by the Sub-Inspector according to the necessities of such walk, and the number of men allocated thereto.

*Towns generally.*—All members of the force in all cities or towns must especially he on the alert by day, as well as such as are on duty by night, for the prevention of crime, and the detection of offenders, and are, by every means in their power, to be aiding and assisting the local authorities in the maintenance of peace and good order; they are not to suffer disorderly persons to remain in the lanes, streets, or passages, nor to stand congregated on the foot pavement to tbe obstruction of passengers; nor are they to allow any public nuisançe to be committed therein, without reporting it to the proper authorities.

*Night Patrols.*—The officers in charge are to establish a vigilant system of nightly patrol, of which, and of the execution of all other duties, a proper account must be kept in the diaries.

*Knowledge of Characters.*—If a knowledge of the individual character of the inbabitants of a rural district is necessary to the constitution of an efficient police, it is doubly essential in cities and towns, from the greater degree of vice that exists in them, and from the adroitness with which delinquents endeavour to evade detection; it, therefore, becomes a most important duty of the police quartered in towns to make themselves well acquainted with the persons and haunts of all suspected persons therein, in order to their being able to bring them forward without delay, in the event of their being charged with the commission

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mission of any crime or misdemeanor, or, by close observation of their movements, deter them from committing depredations or other offences against person or property.

*Arrival and Departure of Passengers.*—A portion of the force stationed in all towns, ports, or other places, should, when not otherwise engaged on duty, be always in attendance at the despatch and arrival of all vessels, boats, coaches, and other public vehicles with passengers, with a view not only to observe the persons departing or arriving by them, but to render such persons any assistance or protection which they may require, and which the police can, consistently with their other duties, afford to them; and in the case of public conveyances stopping to change horses, a crowd of persons is not to be permitted to assemble round the vehicle, to the annoyance or molestation of the passengers therein.

*Seaports.*—The more effectually to secure, at each seaport, the object adverted to in the preceding Section, the County Inspector will select an active, intelligent, and steady policeman, whose peculiar duty it will be to notice the arrival and departure of all passengers, especially those of suspicious appearance, by all vessels (emigrant ships in particular), taking their departure from, or arriving at, the port.

The individual appointed to perform this duty is to consider it as one of much importance, and in the execution of it he must act with great discretion and circumspection; he should make himself well acquainted with the descriptions of all persons advertised in the "Hue and Cry," or described in any proclamation, placard, or return, which may be furnished in compliance with the regulations, and when actually engaged in this duty he will be permitted to wear plain clothes.

*Villages.*—In towns or villages which are too small to be divided into walks or beats, such an arrangement should be made as will always secure the superintendence of some of the men at the station over the town and its vicinity; the idle lounging of the men at their barracks being calculated to give to the public an unfavourable impression of their zeal and vigilance.

*Fires.*—All members of the force in cities, towns, or elsewhere, are promptly to turn out on any alarm of fire, and to render all the aid in their power which the circumstances of the case may demand.

*Over-loading of Public Carriages.*—It is the duty of the police to be vigilant in enforcing the law relating to this subject, and their attention is accordingly directed to the subject.

*Returns.*—All periodical returns usually furnished for counties, should, unless otherwise directed, be likewise furnished for cities and towns having distinct legal police establishments.

*Public Conveyances, Carts, and Cars.*—The Constabulary will also give attention to the 11th Section of the "Summary Jurisdiction Act (1851)," a copy of which has been furnished to every station, in respect of public conveyances carrying more than their proper number of passengers, or an excessive quantity of luggage, or not having the number of passengers to be conveyed conspicuously painted thereon, or in respect of the misconduct or negligence of the drivers thereof, as well as to the 12th Section of the same Act, in respect to carts and cars not having the owners' names painted thereon, or to the want of due care on the part of the drivers of such vehicles; in all of which cases, as well as for other road offences, the Constabulary are to strictly enforce the provisions of the Act above quoted.



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COPIES of INSTRUCTIONS to the IRISH CONSTABULARY, in force in January 1858, with regard to the PROTECTION, during the Night, of LIFE and PROPERTY in Towns where no Local Police exists; and, of INSTRUCTIONS on the same subject issued between that Date and January 1864

(*Sir Hervey Bruce*)

*Ordered*, by The House of Commons, to be *Printed*, 8 *March* 1864.

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*Under* 1 *oz.*

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